SPEAKER AMONG HOSTS MAKOMA DELEGATION, VISION GROUP

By Ranell Dickson Nsereko and Charles Etukuri

The Speaker of Parliament Annet Anita Among on Thursday rallied Ugandans across the country to attend the launch of the *New Vision*'s 40 anniversary celebrations at Kololo Independence Grounds that will be held today (Friday, March 6, 2026).

Among, who hosted the Makoma band lead vocalist Nathalie Makoma and her sister Pengani Makoma at her home in Nakasero, thanked Vision Group's chief executive officer Don Wanyama for considering to bring the band for praise and worship, noting that Uganda was a God-fearing country.

"You are most welcome. This is your home and while you are in Uganda, feel at home," she said warmly. "I want to thank Don and Vision Group for inviting people from outside Uganda to come and see what our country is good at. I am happy that we are hosting you and that through such visits people continue to know more about Uganda. As you go back to your countries, continue speaking about Uganda and the good things you have seen here."

PHOTOS BY SIMON PETER TUMWINE



L-R: Bukoto West MP Muhammad Ssentayi, Buwekula South MP Dedan Mubangizi, Speaker of Parliament Anita Among, Natalie and Pengani Makoma, Kassanda South MP Abdul Bisaso, and Vision Group CEO Don Wanyama at Among's home in Nakasero, Kampala yesterday. (Scan picture using the Vision Digital Experience to watch video)

> ***New Vision* will be turning 40 on March 19, and we thought it important to start the celebrations with reflection, praise and worship as we look forward to the next 40 years.**

NEW VISION HAILED

Among applauded the New Vision for its contribution to national development. "Vision Group is a government institution and whatever it does aligns with the country's growth. That is why we appreciate what you are doing," she added. She also used the moment to highlight the growing role of women in leadership across Uganda and Africa.

"I am always proud when I see women in powerful positions. It shows that as women of Uganda and Africa, we have moved forward. We must thank our President for empowering women and giving them opportunities to lead. The President has elevated women so much in this country and women are at 65% in leadership positions in Uganda." the Speaker of Parliament added.

"What you are doing for us at New Vision at 40, is very important. It coincides with our President at 40 and the National Resistance Movement government at 40. Among said as she booked 10 tables valued at sh30m.

Nathalie thanked the Speaker for hosting them and representing the women. "We don't often see a lot of powerful women like you. You have a beautiful heart and that is why the Lord blessed you and He will keep on blessing you," she said.

Among expressed interest in meeting and chatting with Nathalie at another opportunity in the future. She explained to the singers that it is because President Museveni is a Pan Africanist that they are here.

"You are here because this is where you belong. Being Africans, we must love each other. I have always told people that our African problems can be solved locally. They need local solutions," Among said.

CEO'S REMARKS

Wanyama thanked the Speaker for hosting Makoma band, Vision Group and Pacific Events, the organisers of the concert.

"We placed a request to you at a very short notice that we had this special group of visitors and we thought it would be good for you to interface with them. Despite your busy schedule, you accepted to give us your precious time. We don't take that for granted," Wanyama said.

"We shall be turning 40 on March 19 but we thought it is important to start this journey of our 40 years celebration as we look forward to the next 40 years. We take this moment to just reflect, praise and worship. We could not find a better fitting gospel group than Makoma. We reached out to them, they said they loved Uganda and they agreed to come back [after 25 years] to entertain, praise and worship with us," he added.

Wanyama thanked Speaker and the institution of Parliament for the warm partnership they had with Vision Group.

"Just last weekend you joined us at the Harvest Money Expo and again I want to thank you for coming to check on us and the commitment you made not just to support us but the wider agriculture industry in this country."

Gates to the Makoma concert at Kololo Independence Grounds open at 2:00pm today.



Among handing a gift to Pengani and Natalie Makoma